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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON OPPORTUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

Report of the Second Committee (Part XI)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 95, sub-items (f), (g), (h), (i), (j) and (k) (see A/50/617, para. 3). Action on sub-item (j) was taken at the 39th and 42nd meetings, on 27 November and 8 December 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.39 and 42).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/50/L.36 AND L.60

2. At the 39th meeting, on 27 November, the representative of Papua New Guinea, on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Benin, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands and Trinidad and Tobago, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations initiative on opportunity and participation" (A/C.2/50/L.36), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 48/60 of 14 December 1993 on a United Nations initiative on opportunity and participation, and its decision 49/434 of 19 December 1994 on the same subject,

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* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/617 and addenda.

"Reaffirming that one of the fundamental prerequisites of the achievement of sustainable development is broad-based public participation in decision-making,

"Acknowledging the relevance of opportunity and participation in the economic and social development agenda of the United Nations, as reflected in the various international conferences and agreements related to the follow-up of the Rio process,

"Commending the South Pacific Forum Vision Statement, 1/ adopted by the Twenty-sixth South Pacific Forum, held at Madang, Papua New Guinea, from 13 to 15 September 1995, which promotes opportunities for international and regional cooperation leading to growth with equity, broad-based participation and capacity-building for self-reliance,

"Noting that the United Nations Panel on Opportunity and Participation met at United Nations Headquarters from 15 to 19 May 1995,

"1. Welcomes the report of the United Nations Panel on Opportunity and Participation; 2/

"2. Takes note of the Panel's contribution to the finalization of an agenda for development and the follow-up arrangements for the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in March 1995;

"3. Invites Member States, relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to consider the recommendations of the Panel, particularly the relevant sections of its report on the commitment to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social development of all peoples;

"4. Invites the Commission on Sustainable Development, within the overall framework of trade, environment and sustainable development, alleviating poverty, promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development, and small-scale fisheries development, to draw upon the work of the Panel;

"5. Requests the Committee for Development Planning, as constituting the consultative body of experts on evaluation of the programmes of United Nations organs and organizations relating to economic planning and projection and proposed improvements, to further consider the report of the Panel, at its session of 1996, in terms of its multi-year programme, within the context of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade; 3/

1/ A/50/475, annex, appendix II.

2/ A/50/501 and Add.1, annex.

3/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

"6. Encourages the relevant agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the regional commissions, to increase their efforts in promoting opportunity and participation and to develop these concepts and incorporate them into their strategies and programmes including regional and national workshops and seminars;

"7. Invites Member States and international organizations to make special voluntary contributions to these efforts;

"8. Encourages support for the widest possible dissemination of the report of the Panel to the international community."

3. At the 42nd meeting, on 8 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations initiative on opportunity and participation" (A/C.2/50/L.60), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.36.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.60 without a vote (see para. 7).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Papua New Guinea (see A/C.2/50/SR.42).

6. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.60, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.36 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations initiative on opportunity and participation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/60 of 14 December 1993 and its decision 49/434 of 19 December 1994 on a United Nations initiative on opportunity and participation,

Reaffirming that one of the fundamental prerequisites of the achievement of sustainable development is broad-based public participation in decision-making,

Acknowledging the relevance of opportunity and participation in the economic and social development agenda of the United Nations, as reflected in the various international conferences and agreements related to the follow-up of the Rio process,

Commending the South Pacific Forum Vision Statement, 4/ adopted by the Twenty-sixth South Pacific Forum, held at Madang, Papua New Guinea, from 13 to 15 September 1995, which promotes opportunities for international and regional cooperation leading to growth with equity, broad-based participation and capacity-building for self-reliance,

Noting that the United Nations Panel on Opportunity and Participation met at United Nations Headquarters from 15 to 19 May 1995,

1. Welcomes the report of the United Nations Panel on Opportunity and Participation; 5/

2. Takes note of the Panel's contribution to the completion of an agenda for development and the follow-up arrangements to the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995;

3. Invites Member States and relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to consider the insights and the recommendations of the Panel, particularly the sections of its report related to the efforts to be made for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries as an effective measure for promoting opportunity and participation in the context of national development and the economic and social development of all peoples;

4. Invites the Commission for Sustainable Development, in the overall framework of trade, environment and sustainable development, alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development and small-scale fisheries development, to draw upon the work of the Panel;

5. Invites the Committee for Development Planning, in accordance with its mandate, to take into account the recommendations of the Panel in its work in 1996 in the context of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade; 6/

6. Encourages the relevant agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the regional commissions, to increase their efforts to promote opportunity and participation, and to develop those concepts and incorporate them into their strategies and programmes, including regional and national workshops and seminars;

7. Invites Member States and international organizations to make voluntary contributions to these efforts;

4/ A/50/475, annex, appendix II.

5/ A/50/501 and Add.1, annex.

6/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

8. Encourages support for the widest possible dissemination of the report of the Panel to the international community.